

REMARKS

Claim 1 is amended to recite that $n=0$.

Claim 7 is canceled.

No new matter is added by this Amendment, and Applicants respectfully submit that entry of this Amendment is proper.

Response to rejections based on Uckert

Claims 1 and 6-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Uckert et al. (U.S. Patent No. 7,214,763) (hereinafter “Uckert”). In addition, Claim 28 was also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Uckert. Applicants respectfully traverse on the grounds that Uckert is not prior art.

Applicants submit herewith a verified English translation of Applicants’ priority document JP 2000-371180. JP ‘180 was filed December 6, 2000, which is prior to Uckert’s earliest possible § 102 date of May 3, 2001. Support for the present claims may be found, e.g., in at least the following portions of JP ‘180:

<u>Present Claim</u>	<u>Support in JP ‘180</u>
1	Claim 1
6	Claim 2
8	Claim 3
9	Claim 4
10	Claim 5
11	Claim 6

<u>Present Claim</u>	<u>Support in JP '180</u>
12	Claim 7
13	Claims 6-8
14	Claim 9
15	Claim 10
16	Claim 11
17	Claim 12
28	Paragraph No. [0091]

Applicants therefore respectfully submit that Uckert is not prior art, and respectfully request the withdrawal of these rejections.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111 Attorney Docket No.: Q67430
Application No.: 09/995,814

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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